On the Diseases of Women.

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Women are subject to nearly all the diseases of men, and to some other diseases that belong exclusively to them from the peculiar structure of their bodies, and from menstruation pregnancy and parturition.

I have already treated of the menorrhagia or an excessive discharge of the menses, under the head of Hemorrhages.

I shall make a few remarks upon the obstructions of the menses.

They have been divided into two kinds, the one is called Emansio, or an absence of the menses, the other is where they have appeared, and afterwards been obstructed.

The Emansio mensium arises from an original weakness in the vessels of the Uterus, ~~and of th~~ with or without general weakness of the whole system 2 from too much

~~It has no such as~~ The first are palenes, Dyspnea, Dys-
-pepsia, (the last disposing the patient to eat
lime, Coal, Sand, & even feathers) & anasarca,
in which case it has been called Chlorosis.
~~The last is fluor albus~~ The common Symptoms of bad
Debility is fluor albus.

excitement in the blood vessels which prevents their secreting and effusing the menstrual blood. the excitement in this case is suffocated. and 3 Lower an ~~imperfoated~~ imperforated hymen.

Emansio mensium from the first cause, may be known by signs of general and local debility, ~~as of local debility manifested by flaccidness.~~ The Remedies in this case should be tonics, particularly Chalybeates, cordial diet & exercise.

Emansio mensium from suffocated excitement in the Uterus is generally connected with the marks of robust health. - the face is often flushed, pains are felt in the head & breast, and the pulse is full tense or depressed. The remedies in this case should be bleeding, purges and low diet, and afterwards tonics if they should be necessary.

If Emansio mensium arises from the third cause, that is imperforated Hymen, it

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should be relieved by an operation which may be performed by a Scalpel. The menses are sometimes discharged monthly into the Vagina, - where they accumulate, and excite great pain, and sometimes a suppression of ~~the~~ urine from the pressure of the retained menses upon the neck of the bladder. I once saw a pint of a black fluid discharged by a puncture in the hymen which had probably been accumulating for five or six months. Every monthly period was attended with great pain.

Obstructions of the menses are acute & chronic. The former arise from all the causes that induce fevers and are to be cured by the same remedies that are proper for other acute fevers. No remedies for promoting the discharge of

But ~~they~~ chronic Obstructions are more generally accom=
=panied with all the Symptoms formerly
mentioned of Emansio mensium. The
Remedies should be the same as were
directed under that head. ~~They~~ In addition
to them what would be the = trim over

the menses should ever be employed in these cases. By restoring the natural action of the blood vessels either by depletion, or tonic medicines, the menses soon recover their natural course.

The Chronic obstructions arise from general, or local debility, or from both. They are Sometimes ~~followed by great~~ attended with considerable arterial ~~irritation~~ reaction. The Remedies when this is the case should be bleeding, ~~purgs~~ aloetic purges and low diet. After the reduction of the system to what I formerly called the menstrual point, ~~tonics~~ tonics should be given. ~~These~~ have been called Emmenagogues. I have said in our therapeuticks that I do not admit that class of medicines. Chalybeates, ~~and the most~~ ~~bum~~ the volatile tincture of Guajacum, Pennyroyal, ~~and~~ feather few, and Sage teas ~~all general stimuli~~ and Exercise are all general stimuli, and they have all been employed

~~of the menses sometimes arise from debility of the Uterus alone, what would~~ be the effect of injecting some gently stimulating liquids into the Vagina so as to excite the mouth of the Womb? — It is certain matrimony has sometimes cured Obstructions of the menses after all the common tonics have failed. The remedy in this case must have been a local stimulus.

~~with hemp. when exhibited at the precise point up before mentioned. As obstructions~~ They act only by elevating the System to

~~When the Obstruction arises from a general weakness, and is not accompanied with Arterial section~~ is connected with

It is common ~~to prescribe to-~~ for ~~ries, and~~ to watch with impatience ~~for~~ the ~~their~~ effects of our medicines in promoting a discharge of the menses. In these cases we do not bleed, and why? because the loss of ~~now~~ even four ounces of blood would encrease the debility of the System. Why then should we hasten the ~~return of the~~ loss of that quantity of blood from the Uterus? The Obstruction is the effect, & not the ~~cause~~ cause of the general debility. By elevating the System to the menstrual point, by means of ~~tonics~~, Chalybeates, cordial diet and ~~do~~ exercise, we shall remove the cause of the Obstruction, and

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this will soon be followed by ~~its~~ the removal of its effect, that is a discharge of the menses.

In all cases of obstructed menses, it is of great consequence to examine the pulse in every visit we pay to our patients. ~~It is with~~ ~~reason~~ The obstruction discovers itself in head ache, sickness at stomach, pains in the bones, but more generally in an increase or diminution of excitement of the arterial system. It is from the neglect of attending to the pulse that the practice of physicians has so often been, not only ~~unprincipled, but~~ unsuccessful, but hurtful.

Obstructions are seldom removed as time says after they have continued seven years. It is very difficult to remove them after they have continued even three years. The system in these cases accommodates itself to their absence, as it does to the loss of a limb, &

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and women often enjoy good health in this unnatural state of the system.

I have suspected in these incurable or obstinate cases of obstruction, that ~~the [illegible] has [illegible]~~ ~~ed in [illegible] of the [illegible] inflamma-~~ morbid excitement ~~tion~~ which takes place in menstruation from being too weak to ~~to~~ secrete blood, secretes ~~but being accompanied with a secretion of blood, lacto of~~ only coagulating lymph which by forming a membrane obstructs the mouth of the ~~[illegible]~~ womb, or the blood vessels which usually perform that office in the ~~[illegible]~~ womb. This conjecture is rendered somewhat probable, from conception so rarely taking place where the menses have been obstructed more than two or three years.

✓ It is the cause of a natural disease, or a substitution of an artificial for a natural one.

Dysmenorrhea.

This distressing disease called difficult menstruation, has been called by Dr Lipot, a "Uterine ~~[illegible]~~ Colic". It is attended with a great pain, in the region of the Uterus, which extends to ~~the~~ whole abdomen – and hence the name given to it by Dr Lipot. There is either no discharge, or a very small discharge of blood coloured serum, or dark in each paroxysm of this disease. Like a complete obstruction of the menses it is ~~also~~ always the effect of ~~a~~ excessive or suppressed, or feeble excitement in the blood vessels of the Womb. We see something analogous to the former, in the muscles of the Womb in parturition. They are elevated above the pass of convulsive action, so as to be unable to expel the fœtus ~~[illegible]~~ Until their excitement is reduced by bleeding, or by breaking the membranes

V A certain Mary Kisby who was afflicted with this ~~dis~~ form of ~~the~~ the disease in our hospital in 1811 was perfectly cured by three bledings, and afterwards by the usual tonic remedies. —

which ~~[illegible]~~ enclose it. In like manner this high and suffocated degree of excitement in the blood vessels of the Uterus, which attends the form of Dysmenorrhea in ~~[illegible]~~ can be relieved only by bleeding in its paroxysms, and by large doses of Laudanum afterwards. When the Dysmenorrhea arises from feeble morbid excitement in the blood vessels of the Uterus, Laudanum only should be given during its paroxysms.

In the intervals of the paroxysms, the Remedies should be occasional bleeding, purges and low diet, if the system be plethoric; If not the tonic medicines formerly recommended in Obstructions unaccompanied with general debility.

The discharge it has ~~be~~ been found comes from the mucous glands and not the serous vessels of the Vagina. The humor discharged is thin, whitish, viscid, and when of long continuance becomes so acrid as to inflame ~~on~~ and excoriate the pudenda. It may be considered as a coryza of the Vagina.

It is distinguished from a Gonor=rhoea by ceasing during menstruation.

It is a distressing disease. It ge=nerally prevents conception, and some=times produces ulcers in the Vagina which ~~Discharge~~ secrete an acrid matter which by its irritation induces hectic fever and death. I have called it when it assumes the

The pulse should govern all our prescriptions in this disease as in those obstructions ~~that~~ that are not accompanied with pain.

~~Lo~~ Leucorrhœa or Whites

~~It~~ For an account of the symptoms of this distressing disease I refer you to practical books. It affects all habits & nearly all ages. I have seen it in women of apparently firm health of the most robust constitutions. It affects girls under puberty. ~~It~~ is endemic ~~at~~ in the City of Rio Janeiro, where whole families of women are affected with it, and even children under five years of age are not exempted from it. It arises from general and local debility. ~~and sometimes from~~ The Remedies should be general and local according to circumstances.

= from a Uterine Consumption. —

If the Disease be attended with a full or tense pulse, ~~[illegible]~~ as it ~~often is~~ generally is when it occurs in robust habits, bleeding, purging and low diet will be proper to begin the Cure. But if it be attended as it most commonly is with marks of general Debility, the general remedies should be Chalybeates, Exhibit medicines, Tinct. of Cantharides, Bark - Port Wine, exercise, and if all fail a fabrication. The last of these remedies is frequently indicated by the disease being accompanied with visceral Obstructions particularly with an Obstruction of the liver.

The local Remedies are astringent injections of Different Kinds - mucus

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Solutions of Alum, and Sugar of Lead in water & Infusions of Oak and peruvian bark in water. I have employed the following quack injection with great advantage. The ingredients are decomposed after their mixture, but perhaps the efficacy of the medicine depends upon this circumstance. ℞ Cortex: Sub: q^n ; Spiritus C.C: q^n 20 Sac: Saturni ℈i Aqua font: ℥ii. a Syringe full of this medicine should be injected into the Vagina twice a day.

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Thus far have we spoken of the diseases which are common to all females. I shall now take notice of those which belong to women who bear Children. They are principally two in number, viz Preg:=nancy and Parturition.

In Pregnancy the Uterus is affected with Chronic inflammation which induces upon the System a Chronic or lurking state of fever. That this is the case I infer from its being accompanied with all the usual marks of general and local inflammation in other parts of the body. I shall first mention its general signs.

1 Does general Inflammation produce a full ~~and~~ or tense pulse? ~~Do~~ So does pregnancy. Con==ception

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is often known to have taken place from this state of the pulse.

2 Does general inflammation produce chilliness, heat a dry skin - heavy horses - high coloured Urine costiveness, tiny blood, and convulsions and Cramps? ~~Immobility in the Nervous System~~? So does pregnancy.

3 Does an inflammatory fever ever produce pse=-tachia, or Ecchymosis? So does pregnancy. Dr. Tipot saw the latter upon the thighs & belly of a pregnant woman.

4 Does an inflammatory ~~[illegible]~~ fever ever produce giddiness, headache, want of appetite ~~and~~ a sick stomach - ~~and~~ and dyspepsia pukings? So does pregnancy.

Let us next attend to the similarity of the local signs of pregnancy, and local fever.

1 Are parts inflamed enlarged? - This takes place in the Uterus in pregnancy, so as

V hence to the origin of the Lochia.
They are a slow and spontaneous local
bleeding performed by nature, and in-
-tended to cure the inflammation of
the Uterus after parturition.

to exceed according to Mr Hunter between 40 and 50 times its natural size in the last month of pregnancy. That this enlargement is not the effect of distention, I infer from the Uterus suffering no diminution in its thickness.

2 Are parts inflamed disposed to hæmorrhage? — So is the Uterus in pregnancy — hence the occurrence of hæmorrhagia Uterina in preg=nancy, and of subsequent abortions,

3 Are inflamed parts disposed to end in Abscesses, Schirri, and Cancers? So is the Uterus, — hence the Origin of these disorders after gestation. It is true they sometimes occur in women who have never borne children. In these cases they are the effects of the inflammation excited by menstruation. That the Uterus

V This inflammatory fever exists necessarily in pregnancy. Perhaps ~~its~~ ~~the~~ its final cause may be to furnish animal matter for the formation and growth of the fœtus.— The mem-brane decidua is as certainly organized matter as the Uterus. I see no difficul-ty therefore in supposing an organized human being being formed by the same process that forms organized membrane, and that inflammation is alike necessary for the production of each of them. I hinted at this, formerly.

is inflamed during menstruation I infer from the quality of the menstrual blood, which is incapable of coagulating, owing to its being a secretion from the Uterus induced by the morbid or inflammatory action of its blood vessels.

4 Do inflamed parts secrete coagulating lymph from which a membrane is formed upon their surfaces? We see the same thing ~~is~~ in the Uterus. Dr Scarpa has proved the membrana decidua which is formed during pregnancy, to be in every respect the same with the membranes which are formed after the Cynanche trachealis, and Pneumony. V

5 ~~Do inflamed parts produce tizy blood?~~ ~~so does an inflammation of the Uterus.~~

In ~~enumerating the~~ speaking of the signs of general inflammation in pregnancy, I said they were sickness ~~and~~ at stomach ~~&c~~ fainting, - ~~[illegible]~~ want of appetite, haemorrhages, costiveness, convulsions, vertigo, headache, costiveness.

There are besides these morbid affections, some others ~~are produced~~ produced by the diseased state of the uterus which do not belong to inflammation.

These are Hepatitis, Jaundice, Difficulty of breathing, Dyspepsia, Costiveness, Ischuria, Involuntary flow of Urine, swelled legs

I shall make a few remarks upon each of them.

1 Sickness at Stomach. This was formerly ascribed to the Uterus pressing up the stomach after impregnation. That this is not the case I infer from its ~~being imperceptible~~ ceasing when the pressure of the Uterus upwards is greatest. It arises from the same sympathy of the

stomach with the
Uterus which attends the inflammation
of other organic parts. Its final cause Dr
Hunter used to say in his lectures was to
suspend the appetite in order to ~~attend the~~
prevent the plethora which attends gest=
=ation – that is the excess of the inflam=
=matory fever necessarily connected with
pregnancy. It probably occurs within the
first three months after conception from
the disposition of the inflamed Uterus to
hemorrhage being greater at that time,
than in the subsequent months of pregnancy.
~~However we may now~~ What makes the
final causes I have mentioned of con=
=ception being accompanied with sickness
highly probable is, – the absence of it is
~~cause~~ sometimes attended with abortion,
in consequence of which a double portion

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of morbid action is concentrated in the Uterus. With the defect of appetite for ordi=
~~The Remedies for the~~ = nary articles of food, and sickness ~~on~~ or puking after eating, there is sometimes an appetite for unusual articles of food, or for articles not of an ali=mentary nature. This morbid state of the appetite has been called longings. It is ge=nerally connected with some prior aperia=tion that is often forgotten by the patient. It is often of a very capricious nature. Dr Dewees informed me that he once had a patient in this city who had an antipathy to eels when she was in health, but who during her preg=nancy longed for, and eat them with plea=sure.

The Remedies for this disease are generally gentle cerotics, Laudanum,

V The bleeding ~~is generally as effectual~~ acts in the same way in preventing this hæmorrhage from the Uterus, that it does in preventing hæmoptysis, or spitting of blood, and what is hæmorrhagia but a spitting of blood, (if I may be allowed the expression) from the Uterus? —

chewing biscuit constantly, eating ginger, lying in bed, and above all fresh air & exercise. Where there is an absence of sickness of stomach, small and nauseating doses have been recommended to excite it, in order thereby to prevent abortion.

2 Menorrhagia. This disease occurs more frequently about the 3rd month of pregnancy than at any other time. It is to be treated in the same way as Menorrhagia where pregnancy does not exist, and it is to be prevented by small & frequent bleedings, and very low diet with gentle exercise. There is sometimes a monthly discharge of a few ounces of blood from the Vagina, which is attended with no danger. It may be relieved by the loss of a few

Ounces of blood from the arm.

3 Cramps and Convulsions. These yield only to copious bleeding, that is to the loss of from 50 to 100 ounces of blood. Before the introduction of this profuse mode of bleeding in these diseases, they were always fatal. After they cease, Laudanum should be given to prevent their recurrence.

4 Vertigo, and head ache are to be relieved by bleeding, purges, low diet, and sleep with the head and shoulders elevated.

5 Costiveness is to be obviated by any gently opening medicine. Aloes should be avoided as an habitual laxative from its tendency to bring on the piles.

The diseases which are more immediately

v by means of a bandage.

connected with the enlargement of the Uterus are

6 Hepatitis, ~~and Jaundice~~ The Remedies for it should be the same as for that disease from Other Causes, with Depression of the Uterus,

7 Jaundice. The same remedies that were recommended for this disorder frequently with more frequent purges.

8 Difficulty of breathing. The remedy for it ~~here~~ should be depressing the Uterus in the manner that has been mentioned.

9 Dyspepsia. The same remedies will be proper for this disease that were advised when it occurs from Other Causes, with the addition of depressing the Uterus.

10 Costiveness. Gentle laxatives, & especially Rhubarb.

11. Ischuria, or difficulty of making water. and 12 Incontinency of Urine both arise from the pressure of the Uterus upon the ~~Rect~~ neck of the bladder obstructing in one case, and irritating it in another. Gentle purges and Clysters by emptying the Rectum lessen this pressure, and thus afford give immediate relief. I once had a patient in this city in whom an involuntary discharge of Urine was the first symptom of her pregnancy.

13 Swelled legs and feet. These arise from the pressure of the Uterus upon the veins and absorbents of the lower extremities. The remedies proper to relieve them are bleeding, purges and low diet.

During pregnancy great care should be taken to avoid the pressure of the breasts, & nipples. Sore breasts & nipples arise chiefly from this cause. The nipples should fre=quently be pulled forwards during the last three or four months of pregnancy. The lacti=ferous tubes are thereby kept pervious, & ready to pour forth milk as soon as it formed.

A question has often been agitated among midwives whether be proper to bleed during pregnancy. As well might we dispute whether it were proper to bleed in a fever. The grade of the disease of preg=nancy, the state of the pulse, and the greater or less pains, and suffering from ~~it~~ symptoms that have been enumerated should regulate the use of the lancet. Low diet, gentle purges & exercise are excellent

2dly From its being preceded by all those signs of debility which precede other local and general diseases. The most prominent of them is a subsidence of the uterus - which is

~~I was first struck with this effect of~~ always attended with an increase or accumulation of irritability.

~~Observing these labors to be more easy~~ which had been preceded a week or two before parturition by an acute disease that made two or three bleedings necessary to cure it. Constant exercise during pregnancy has nearly the same good effects. Labor, and the scanty diet of the Indian women of our country and of all the women of other nations very much to lessen the pains of parturition. The low state of sensibility among them is another cause of their suffering so little from child bearing.

3 substitutes for bleeding, but when they are not submitted to, bleeding is an excellent substitute for them. —

Of the Disease of Parturition

That parturition is a disease I infer
1 from all the Arguments formerly mentioned in favor of the Uterus being ~~to~~ in a diseased state in pregnancy, ~~and~~ V
3 from the Chills, fever & pains, ~~which always~~ which generally attend it ~~and generally attend to, also from~~ even the convulsive motions of the Uterus ~~which to~~ in expelling the fœtus is ~~a disease, so that the symptoms of the to~~ one of the forms of disease formerly mentioned in our pathology, and differs in no one particular from a chronic spasm of any other part of the body.

The Remedies for lessening ~~the~~ pains and danger of Parturition ~~to~~ divide themselves into two heads. —

I Such as are proper prior to Delivery, and
II Such as proper during the ~~time of~~ paroxysm
of parturition. —

I To the first head belong
1 Bloodletting. I was first struck with the
efficacy of this remedy in lessening the pains
of Childbearing by observing its effects in pregnant
women whom I bled for acute Diseases
a week or two before they were confined.
To be useful it should be employed ~~within~~ in the
months of pregnancy. The loss of from 20 to
30 ounces of blood by two or three bleedings
is generally sufficient for this purpose.

2 Gentle Cathartics. The Turkish Women
lessen the pains of Childbearing by taking a
table spoonful of sweet Oil every night just
before bedtime for 2 or 3 months before their Confinement.
It acts only by ~~its~~ keeping
the bowels gently open.

3 Abstemious diet and constant exercise.

The Indian women of our country, and the women of all Savage nations bear Children with but little pain. I have ascribed this to two causes, 1st to their Scanty diet, and 2d to their constant hardships & labors ~~to which their lives are exposed~~, lessening the sensibility of their nerves. Both these may be imitated by the women of civilized nations by substituting low & simple food to the Scanty diet of the wives of Savages, and constant exercise to their hardships & labors during the whole time of pregnancy.

II. During the paroxysm of parturition the Remedies should be accommodated to the State of the System. If the pulse be full, or tense, or depressed, — if the pains be very

acute, or from a suffocated state of excitement there should be no pains, and if there be any symptoms that indicate the approach of Cramps or Convulsions, the Remedy should be a Copious blooding - extending from 20 to 200 Ounces. It often acts like a charm in ~~lessening labor~~ lessening labor pains and shorting ~~it~~ their duration. A relaxation of the Os Uteri often takes place while the blood is flowing. But the advantages of this remedy extend much further. It ~~rather~~ renders Convalescence more rapid, - favours the easy secretion of milk, prevents sore breasts, swelled legs - puerperile fever and all the dismal train of anomalous complaints which often follow parturition. Dr Hunter used to teach in his lectures that the most rapid recoveries succeeded the

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the most severe labors. ~~This phenomenon is to be~~ The reason of this is obvious, for the severity of the pains cre=
=ated ~~as external and~~ a local disease, and thereby prevented the consequences of general congestion and inflammation, just as pain and inflammation from a wound prevents tetanus. But bleeding by depleting the Uterus prevents both local & general disease. The benefits of bleeding will be much increased by emptying the lower bowels which press upon the Uterus by means of Glysters. Dr Weise of Paris has lately introduced the practice of purging ~~up~~ immediately af=
=ter parturition. He says it prevents the puerperile fever. I shall mention another authority in its favor hereafter.

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I cannot dismiss the subject of opinions bloodletting in parasitism without taking notice that we are indebted to Dr Dewees for its discovery and introduction into general use in our city. I say discovery, ~~for it~~ notwithstan=ding it was employed many years ago in France — ~~for Dr Dewees~~ Of this the Dr was wholly ignorant. It was suggested to him by an accidental hæmorrhage from the lungs in one of his patients who was thereby deli=vered with scarcely any pain. The late Dr Shippen said of this discovery that it marked "an Era in the history of ~~medicine~~ medicine". 2 When the system is languid from the debility of action or abstraction Opiates should be given so as to dull sensation, and produce ~~reaction~~ action in the ~~system~~ Uterus. Strong drink has the same

effect. It is remarkable while they both suspend sensation, they do not lessen the contractility of the muscles of the Uterus; on the contrary the throes of labor are quickened by them. A paroxysm of Epilepsy has the same effect as opium and strong drink. It suspends sensation without lessening muscular contraction.

I shall now make a few remarks upon the diseases which follow parturition.

1 Women within a few days after delivery generally become feverish as is supposed from the new action which takes place in the breasts in consequence of the secretion of milk. — hence it is called the milk fever. It probably arises from the reaction of the system after having been depressed by the pains of parturition,

V Often prevented by silence, darkness & solitude. –

for it seldom occurs when labor pains have been rendered easy by the Remedies that have been mentioned. It yields to rest, abstinence and a little gently opening physic, and it is

2 Sore Nipples are relieved by applications to them of the following remedies - Cold Water, Lead Water, Salt & Water, Balsam Peruv - Turlington's Balsam, Brandy and after them all by Sweet Oil. I mentioned this cause formerly.

4 Sore breasts arise frequently from the same cause as sore nipples, but they are sometimes induced by a Cold & fever. - In the forming state of an Abscess in the breast, general and local bleeding with ~~Often pre-~~ lenient purges, ~~Often poultices~~ ~~resolve it;~~ and ~~dip~~ applications of Nitre, or Sal ammoniac dissolved in Water, or Vinegar & Water often resolve it. If these remedies fail of having

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that effect, recourse must be had to plasters and poultices to ~~cod~~ promote a suppuration in it. Bread and milk - bruised flaxseed & milk - also ~~the~~ A poultice made by boiling bread in strong beer tops until it is reduced to the consistence of a poultice, then add to it a Gill of Lye and as much sweet oil as will preserve its softness. It is called from one of its ingredients the Lye poultice. It is a very powerful discutient as well as suppurative application. Equal parts of Bread, milk and soft soap have been used in the form of a poultice for the same purpose. —

3. Swelled legs or leg. This complaint has been called the milk leg, from its being once supposed to be the effect of the

translation of milk to it. It is Rheumatism or Dropsy according to the degree of pain or swelling that attends it, and is the effect of the predisposition to both those affections induced by the pressure of the Uterus upon the bloodvessels and lymphatics of the lower extremities. The Remedies for it should be the same as for Rheumatism & Dropsy from other Causes. Bleeding, purges, ~~and~~ sedative diuretics and blisters are indicated when it is attended with great Arterial Action, ~~but~~ when it is attended with a tense state of the System Bark and stimulating frictions upwards are indicated. From inattention to these two opposite states of the System, this disease is often tedious & painful, and sometimes ends in death, or an incurable lameness.

I have seen it produce death from a mortification of the whole limb.

A female patient of mine was once cured of the hydropic state of the disease by drinking freely of parsley tea. It acted powerfully as a diuretic.

~~After parturition~~ ~~Too many other diseases~~

After parturition, the belly is apt to ~~protude and~~ become flabby, and to protrude so as to resemble pregnancy. It may be prevented by a bandage tied round the belly for five or six weeks after delivery.

Ulcers and Abscesses sometimes occur upon the Labia pudendi after delivery. They have once mistaken for Venereal ~~Lues~~ affections by a ~~very~~ physician of great note in this city. ~~[illegible]~~ He was convinced of his error by an Old Woman

who pointed to those phenomena in Dr Hamilton's midwifery as the occasional results ~~forces~~ of the parturient fever. I mention this fact to induce you to study ~~attend~~ ~~the~~ diseases of women as connected with childbearing. For many more surgical facts upon this subject, I refer you to the lectures upon midwifery & to practical books. — I proceed in the next and last place to make a few remarks upon the puerperal fever. —

On the puerperile fever

Few diseases have been the subjects of more publications & controversies than the puerperile fever. ~~They~~ The latter have been produced ~~chiefly by nosology, and~~ by its being considered as a fever sui generis, and by different opinions of its causes and the mode of curing it. ~~It belongs to the class of fevers and partakes of all its species~~. I shall briefly enumerate the different causes to which it has been ascribed, and then mention that ~~only one~~ which I believe to be the true one: the Remedies I shall recommend for its cure shall be founded upon the cause to which I shall ascribe it.

1 It has been said to be derived from the translation of milk from the breasts to the bowels. This opinion is refuted by

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the secretion of milk going on during the whole course of the fever. ~~It~~ In those cases in which it ceases, nothing more occurs than what we observe in other secretions during the continuance of a fever. They are generally suspended or lessened. ~~The~~ white fluid is sometimes found in the abdomen after death from this fever, but this is the effect of a morbid secretion from the peritoneal coat of the abdomen. Now and then it is possible it may be the effect of the translation of milk from the breasts after it has been secreted. I mentioned instances of the translation of milk from the breasts to the lungs, and stomach formerly in treating of secretion.

2 The perspirable power has been ascribed to the suppression of the Lochia. But this opinion is refuted by the lochia continuing

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during the whole course of the fever, and by this obstruction often occurring without being followed by the puerperale fever.

3 It has been ascribed to an inflammation of the Uterus. Many dissections prove this not to be the case. No inflammation has been discovered after death below the peritoneal coat of the Uterus, and even in those cases in which the ~~inflam~~ Uterus has been inflamed from an injury done to it in parturition, the inflammation has not been observed to extend to its external part.

4 The true cause of this fever I suppose to be an inflammation of the Peritoneum. This inflammation is sometimes

V Dr Gordon observed that ovarium of the Uterus only to be affected in which con-
-ception had taken place. –

limited, but it often extends over ~~the whole~~ all its modifications upon the ~~omen~~ abdomen, Uterus ~~and the abdomen~~ part of the Intestines, ~~and the~~ omentum and omentum. ~~Uterus~~. It is remarkable it ~~seldom~~ rarely descends below the peritoneal coat to the ~~Uter~~ inner coats of the ~~abdomen, stomach~~ Intestines. Dr. Walter out of many hundred dissections never saw but five instances of ~~this~~ exceptions to this remark. From the uniformity ~~of the results of this~~ appearance of inflammation in the Peritoneum, the disease has lately been called by the Nosologists in Latin Peritonitis. This inflammation we are told ~~in~~ is not obvious when patients die on the 5th or 6th day of the disease, but this has been ascribed to the same retrocession of the blood from the small vessels which takes place from the face and skin just before death. It is however generally perceptible if the patient die on the 10th or 12th day of the disease

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Unless the usual results of inflammation that is a secretion and discharge of water, or pus, or gangrene should have taken place before those days. — ~~the~~

This fever has been supposed to be of a specific nature; but this is not the case ~~and has been treated with specific remedies but~~ it belongs to the unity of fever, and partakes of all its grades. It is synocha, synochus, synochoid, synanthemic - typhoid - ~~varying as~~ typhus, and perhaps intermitting according to the season of the year, the force of its ~~cause~~ remote causes, nature, and duration and the constitution of the patient. The atmosphere has a ~~power of~~ powerful influence upon it as upon all the other forms of fever, - hence we are told by Dr Leake that it is most common in weather alternately hot, and cold. —

V is possible some acrid matter may be generated by the ~~compression~~ distention of the Uterus which may act in conjunction as an irritant with ~~the irritation~~ that of distention.

However great the influence of the atmosphere may be upon it, its grade, ~~fo~~ and danger depend chiefly upon the greater or less force, and duration of the irritation imparted by the distended Uterus to the peritoneum. It V

I shall now mention the most characteristic symptoms of the most common form of this disease.

It generally makes its attack from within 12 hours, to two and three days and according to some writers six weeks after delivery.

It generally comes on with a chilly fit, but sometimes without it. Its first symptoms are heat, thirst, rancor, Vomiting, languor, pain in the head, and great restlessness. But we sometimes see instances in which it comes on with torpor in the extremities, and a coldness down the back.

a sense of uneasiness and pain occurs about the lower part of the belly. Pains likewise extend to the sides, scapulae - the region of the short ribs, liver and spleen, bladder and Rectum, and such is the sensibility of the system that the patient is scarcely able to bear the weight of the bed clothes upon her. The breathing is quick, and short so that the motion of the breast is sometimes scarcely perceptible. She lies constantly upon her back partly from inability to turn upon her sides, and partly because in that position she feels least pain.

The matter discharged in vomiting is green, yellow and of a dark color.

The bowels are sometimes costive, but a Diarrhoea often attends accompanied with pain, and a discharge green, yellow mucous stools, & frequently involuntary do

of a most offensive nature.

The Urine is sparing, of a high color, &c sometimes deposits a large sediment.

The Lochia are deficient, or natural in quantity and sometimes of an offensive Odor.

The Milk is deficient, or plentiful, or natural.

A troublesome cough accompanied with an increase of pain in the bowels sometimes takes place in this disease. —

The Skin is Dry, or partially, or universally moist.

The Pulse in its common form is frequent, quick, and weak, but it differs with the form of the fever.

The Tongue is first moist, white & dry, then rough & covered with a brown or black crust. This black Crust sometimes covers the teeth.

The face is sorrowful, and assumes an appearance not common in any

3

other disease. It is contracted & elevated up=
=wards so as to constitute a kind of stare.

Towards the close of the disease, delirium and subsultus tendinum take place. The belly now swells as in pregnancy and ascites — ~~stroke~~ great pains are felt in the back and buttocks — and one or both legs often swell up to the hips.

Sometimes petechiæ, and miliary pustules or red spots appear on the joints. From these eruptions Stone & Donovan have called the ~~fever~~ disease an erysipelatous fever. Pain generally ceases some hours, and sometimes days before death

The duration of the disease is from 24 hours to 11 and 15 days. In some cases it extends to 20 & even 30 days.

It terminates in health ~~with~~ in the

have been as numerous, as the con=
=troversies about its specific nature, and
causes. Each of them as been commen=
=ded or condemned according to the state
of the disease in which it has been given.
~~But~~ These controversies ~~can~~ may be ended
in a simple manner, and that is by
accommodating our Remedies ~~to the~~
~~grade~~ power and grade of the fever. =

same ~~type~~ manner as other forms of fever.

Abscesses, a slow remitting fever, and swelled legs sometimes succeed a recovery.

The controversies about the Remedies for this fever, ~~should be accommodated to its grade and form~~ when it is attended with a full and tense pulse or with the symptoms of Synochus or Synocha, or Synochula fever.

1 Bloodletting should begin the Cure. This should be regulated by the pulse. In a pu=
=erperile fever which prevailed at Aberdeen and its neighbourhood in Scotland some
During the prevalence of an inflam: constitution of years ago, Dr Gordon used this remedy
the air with great success. When called within 6, or 8 hours, he drew from ℥xvi to ℥xxx of blood; which uniformly put an immedi=
=ate stop to the disease, but when bleeding was employed later, it brought the fever to

Where bleeding ~~to~~ in the arm is forbidden local bleeding by means of leaches applied to the Vulva and Rectum have been found useful. They may be employed to aid general bleeding. —

to an issue on the 5th day. The bleeding always
reduced the frequency as well as the force
of the pulse — in one instance from 160 to
108 strokes in a minute. The indications
for the use of the lancet were as urgent
he says as in Pneumonic inflammation.
He bled not only in a depressed, but in a
weak pulse. It became active after bleeding.
The loss of but ℥8 of blood, where more
was indicated, Dr Gordon says was always
hurtful. I can subscribe from experience
to the truth of nearly all the facts men-
-tioned by this excellent physician in
favor of bleeding in the puerperal fever. I
have been in the practice of advising it
nearly 40 years, and always with the
same success as in fevers of the same
grade of action. To this remedy should
be added

retained by the stomach, Clysters should be substituted in this room. As it difficult for the patient to ~~lye~~ lie upon her side, she should lie upon her back while the injections are administered.

~~It gives me a great~~ You will excuse me Gent.ᵉ in expressing the great pleasure I have derived from perceiving the coincidence of my principles and practice with those of Dr Gordon in the use of the two remedies that have been mentioned. There has likewise been a coincidence ~~in~~ between the treatment ~~we have~~ he met with from

2 Purges. They should be regulated by the state of the pulse. After bleeding they are generally proper, but they are indicated in cases where the pulse forbids bleeding. They discharge bile from the bowels, obviate costiveness, and when given in lenient doses, bring on a gentle Diarrhea which depletes from the part affected. Dr Gordon relied upon them next to bleeding, in the puer-perile fever. They are forbidden only in those cases in which they are forbidden in a typhus fever. where they cannot be V

3 Emetics. In a combination of puerpell with the autumnal bilious fever in the Hotel Dieu in Paris this medicine was given by Dr Doulet with uniform success. He recommended it afterwards in all cases. It is proper only where they are

= the public for using them in an inflamenatory puerperile fever, and very use of them in the yellow fever of 1793. I shall quote his words upon this Subject. "Before I finish this Chapter says the Doctor, I think proper to mention the event of this disease in those who treated it with Wine & Cordials, without either bleeding or purging this patients. I took notice that all the women died who were attended ~~with~~ by such practitioners. Yet — — here follows the rub; — Gentlemen this practice was praised, ~~because it was pleasant~~, (tho it always failed) because it was pleasant, and corresponded with popular opinion, whereas mine was blamed, tho always successful, because my method of cure had the appearance of severity."

proper in other states of fever. In a highly excited, and in a low state of the system, I am sure they are hurtful. When the fever blends itself with the fevers of autumn of a moderate grade they are safe and useful.

4 Diaphoretics. The same rules should be followed in using this class of medicines in the prespirile fever as in all the other states of fever formerly described.

5 Blisters. After the reduction of the system to what we formerly called the blistering point they are as proper & useful as in other fevers. —

In the ~~typhoid and~~ typhus states of this disease, Bark, Wine, Volatile salt and Opium are indicated. They are to

be ~~given in~~ administered by the same ~~doses and by the same~~ rules that were formerly mentioned in the treat=
=ment of the typhus state of fever.

Fomentations of bitter herbs boiled in ~~spirit~~ vinegar with spirit added to it ~~are~~ to the belly are useful, also the volatile liniment, turpentine and sweet oil, and a pan cake made of Camomile flowers, or Rue, or wormwood, wheat flour, vinegar and spirit, with a little sweet oil, or hogs lard spread over it. It should be renewed twice a day. —

As this fever ~~is often protracted be=~~ sometimes becomes chronic ~~=yond the 5th day~~, recourse should be had to Calomel in order to induce a salivation — It promises the same success as a salivation for any other chronic state of fever.

As a restoration of the milk where

the secretion of it has ceased, is always favourable; it has been advised to apply a sucking child, or a puppy to the breasts in order to promote it. It has certainly succeeded in checking an excessive flux of the menses. Why may it not translate excitement from the peritoneum as ~~readily~~ well as excitement from the Uterus?

The formation of Pus in the abdomen is known by chills and fever which have induced an erroneous belief that the fever had acquired an intermitting form. It may be known by the usual signs of hectic fever, and by a swelling of the belly. It has been proposed to discharge this matter by tapping. Dr Gordon relates an instance of a recovery from a copious

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& spontaneous discharge of pus thro' the Umbilicus. a Seton in the belly has been advised instead of tapping. I can say nothing in favor of either of them from my own experience.

From a review of all that has been said of this disease, it appears that our knowledge of the proper treatment of it may be summed up in a few words. Find out the habit of your patient — the season of the year, the fever & its duration, and above all attend to the nature of coexisting Epidemics, and then prescribe for it as you would for any other fever, always regulating your practice by the state of the pulse. This is more necessary perhaps than in any other form of fever from its so often

V A retention of it is favourable after it has been suspended. None recovered Dr Gordon says in whom there was no secretion of milk.

changing its type or character, and ~~up-~~ assuming ~~[illegible]~~ so often the livery of prevailing Epidemics. —

I shall now mention the signs of ~~an~~ ~~[illegible]~~ a favourable & unfavourable issue of this disease. —

1 a constant flux of the Lochia, or a return of them after they have been stopped is favourable. Dr Gordon found even a flooding to be attended with a favourable issue of the disease.

2 a constant secretion of milk is favourable.

3 a moist skin with a moderate Diarrhoea, and the subsidence of the belly after it has been swelled is favourable.

4 a moist and white tongue is favourable, so is

5 a discharge of mucus & bile only by vomiting, but

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6 a dry, and dark tongue, and
7 a discharge of ~~the~~ dark coloured matter
are unfavourable.

8 The sooner the fever comes on after par=
=turition, the greater the danger.

9 Great pain in the belly, with difficulty of
breathing, costiveness, or an obstinate lax,
are all alarming symptoms.

10 A rapid and weak pulse are alarming.

11 Obstinate wakefulness is unfavourable.

12 A sudden ~~cessation~~ diminution of the
swelling of the belly, without being accompa=
=nied with a lax, or a moist skin is always
alarming.

13 A sudden cessation pain, with a weak
pulse, petechiæ, delirium & cold ~~coldness of the~~ sweats
and paleness of the face are are generally
fatal symptoms. ——

8

The Preventives of this fever are gentle exercise during the whole time of gestation — occasional purges and bleeding in its last months — a strict regard to cleanliness in Diet, — and pure air. After parturition the preventives should be gentle laxatives or Glysters — ~~and~~ rest, ~~and~~ exemption from ~~bright~~ company, and moderate light. —